

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action would include constructing and operating the EVOC, which would be located on approximately 60 acres (24.2 hectares); expanding, operating, and transferring ownership of NUTS, which is located on approximately 80 acres (32.3 hectares) [40 acres (16.2 hectares) from the original HAMMER footprint and 40 additional acres (16.2 hectares) from the expansion]; and reserving the remaining space [approximately 92 acres (37.2 hectares)] north of the original HAMMER, NUTS, and the CTF (Figure 2) and south of the BPA power lines for future development. EVOC would provide training to emergency service personnel when driving in emergency response situations. NUTS would provide training for utility personnel.

2.1 Emergency Vehicle Operations Course

EVOC (Figure 3) would be located on the approximate 60-acre (24.2-hectare) section to the west of Ila Lane and north of Horn Rapids Road. EVOC would consist of an asphalt course approximately 36 feet (11 meters) wide and 1 mile (1.6 kilometer) long. The course would include a quarter mile (0.4 kilometer) straightaway, a 180-degree corner, and a serpentine of several more turns of varying degrees and radii. The straightaway would be level while the rest of the course would follow approximately the natural elevations of the land. In addition to the asphalt course, a 1,600 square foot (148.6 square meter) asphalt pad would be constructed as a skills course for low speed vehicle maneuvers.

A parking area, connex box pad, and shelter area pad also would be constructed at the entrance to the course. The parking area would be approximately 12,500 square feet (1,161 square meter), and the connex box and shelter area pads would be approximately 1,500 square feet (139 square meters) and 600 square feet (55.7 square meters) respectively.

2.2 National Utility Training Services Site

Title to the 80 acres (32.3 hectares) NUTS site (Figure 4) would be transferred to the Department of Education. In a separate action, the Department of Education will transfer this land to the NWPPA. The NUTS site would have properly positioned spans of both wooden and steel transmission lines with room for erecting and dismantling. An area would be used for a helipad, a parking garage for equipment, and an expanded area for earthmoving training.

2.3 Areas Reserved for Future Development

Approximately 92 acres (37.2 hectares) are reserved for future development and would be addressed under a future NEPA review once plans have been developed. These areas are located to the north of the original HAMMER and to the north of the CTF and south of the BPA power lines (Figure 2).

2.4 Environmental Information

A Cultural Resources Review (Appendix A) and a Biological Review (Appendix B) have been prepared for the proposed action.

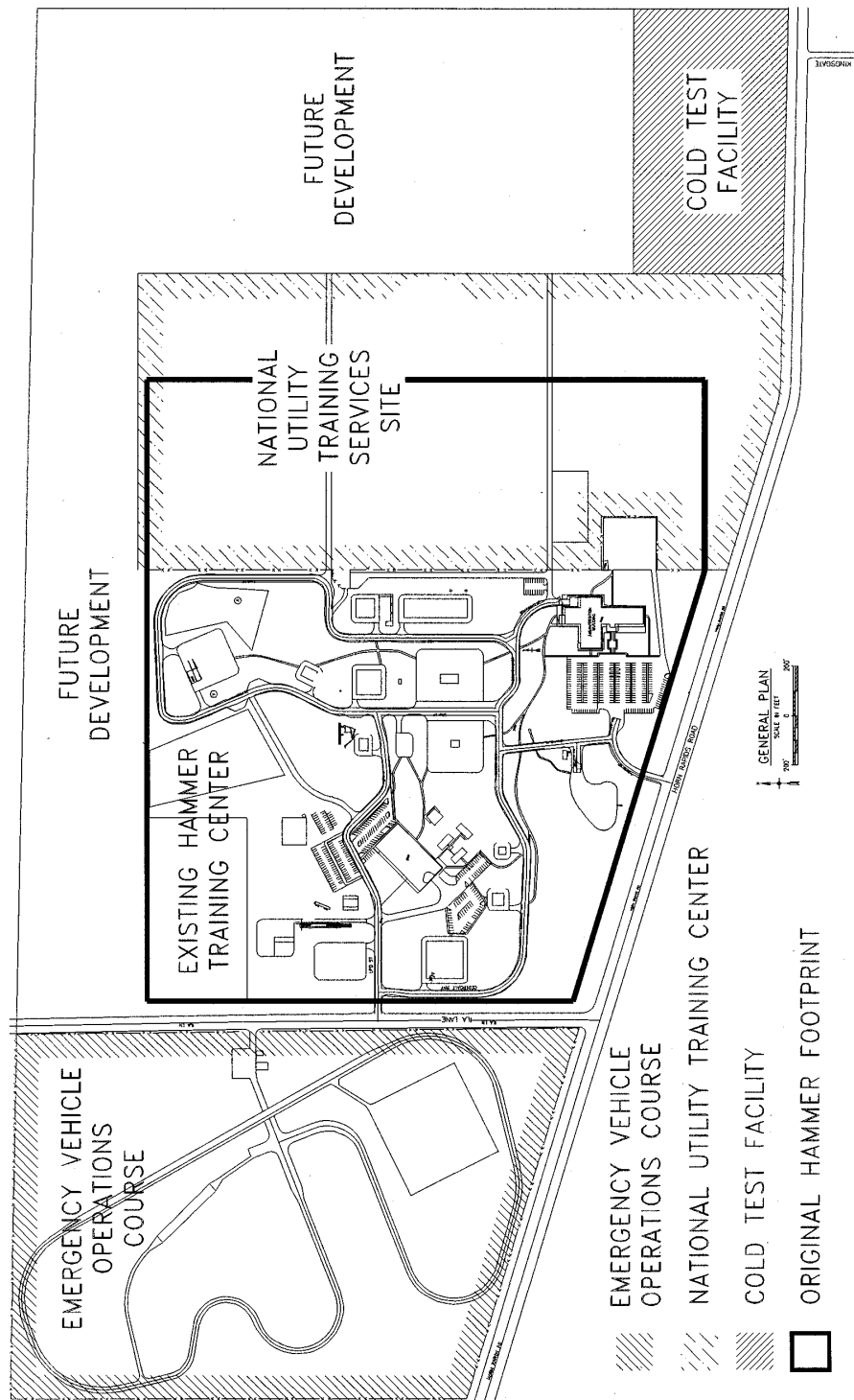


Figure 2. HAMMER.

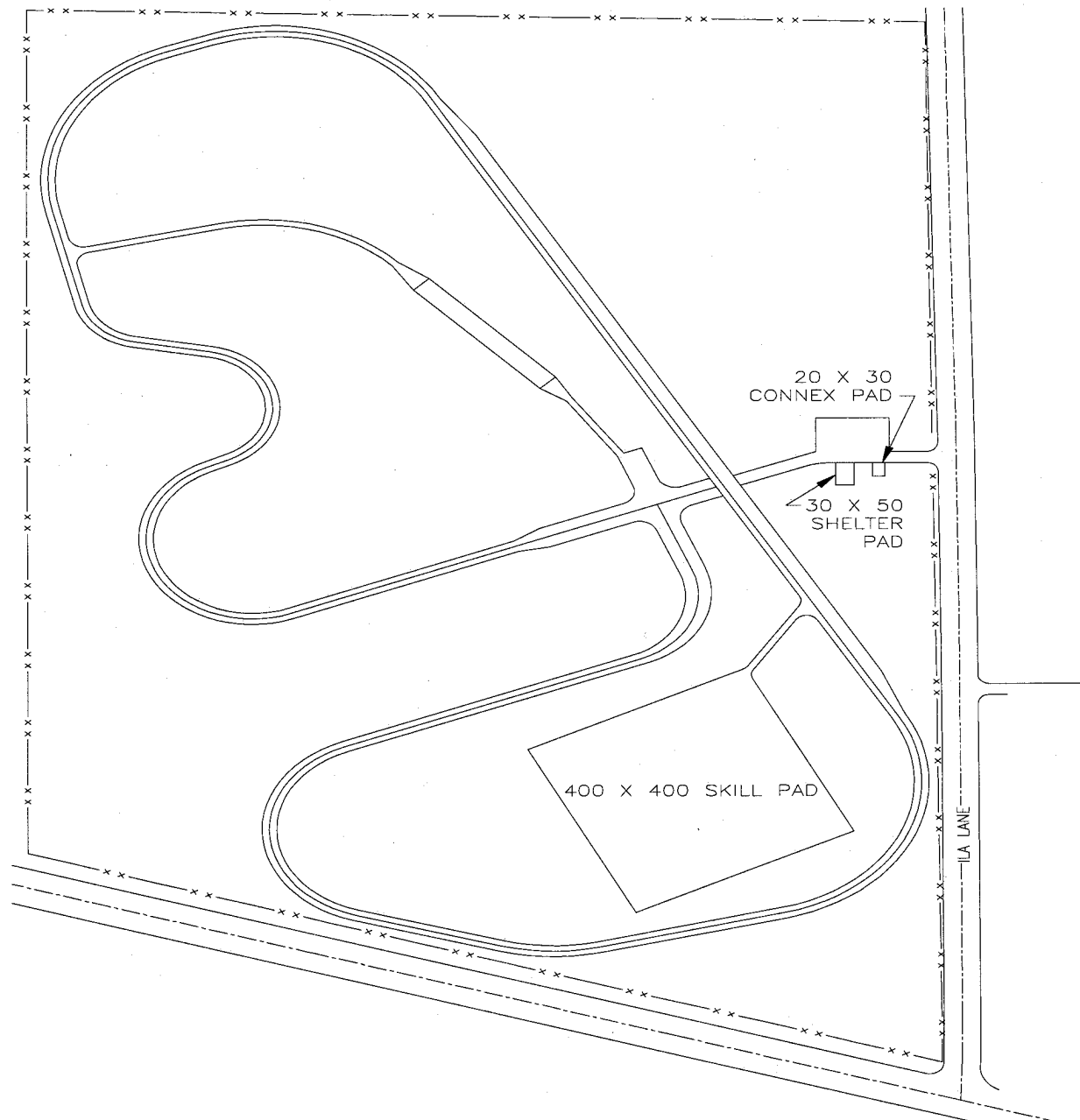


Figure 3. Emergency Vehicle Operation Course.

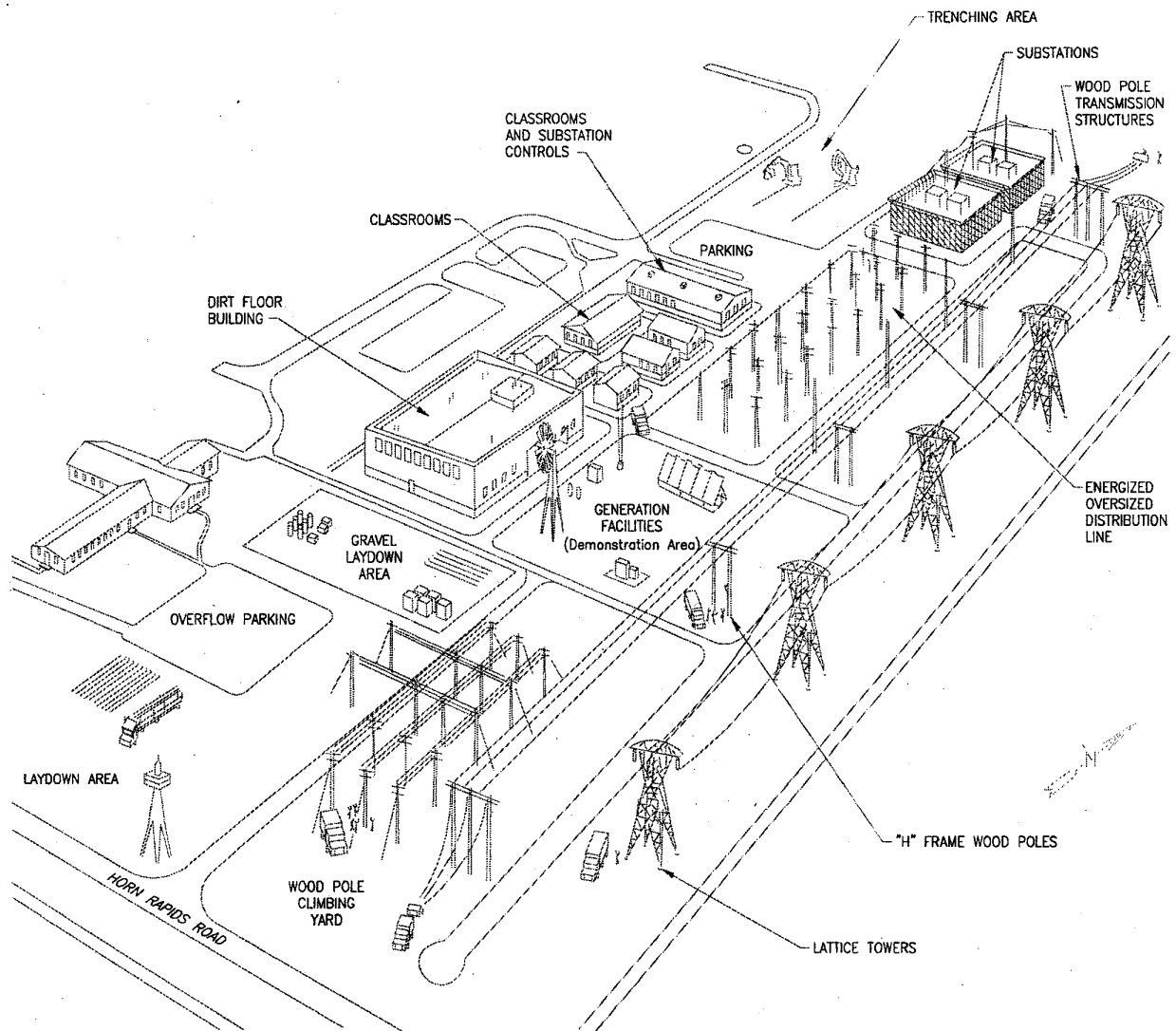


Figure 4. National Utility Training Services Site (Conceptual).